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trigger fishes — a poisonous alkaloid is developed which causes a very dangerous disease known in Cuba as ciguatera. This poison attacks the nervous system, and through it other organs, often producing death. Similar alkaloids of less virulence exist in sharks and some other fishes. Dr. Pellegrin regards it as a kind of device for the preservation of the species by the destruction of its enemies with the death of the individual. The virulence of the poison is less in fresh waters and grows less away from the tropics.

Similar effects are sometimes produced by the flesh of species otherwise innocuous which have been themselves poisoned by poisonous mollusks, polyps, or fish.

Illness caused by decayed fish flesh or by undigested fish has no relation to ciguatera. This Pellegrin calls "ichthyosisme," and it may be produced by various species under conditions adverse to assimilation.

In a monthly publication called *Japan and America*, for January, 1902, Dr. Jordan gives an account of the Salmonidæ of Japan, this paper being an epitome of one sent to Japan for publication. The valid species known in Japanese waters are the Sake (*Oncorhynchus keta*), the Ginmasu (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), the Yesomasu (*Oncorhynchus masou* or *O. yessoënsis*, accidentally omitted in this paper), the Benimasu (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), the Yamabe or Kawamasu (*Salmo perryi*), the Ito (*Hucho blackistoni*), the Iwana (*Salvelinus pluvius*), the Malma (*Salvelinus malma*), the Amemasu (*Salvelinus kundscha*), and the famous Ayu, one of the finest food fishes in all the world (*Plecoglossus altivelis*). This dwarf salmon of the rivers should by all means be introduced into the clear streams of Maine, Quebec, and California. Few finer food fishes exist anywhere.

D. S. J.

Vascular System of Bdellostoma dombeyi. — C. M. Jackson[1] has made the vascular system of *Bdellostoma dombeyi* the subject of investigation. The author emphasizes the interest and importance attaching to the Cyclostomata owing to their being the lowest of the Craniata and possessing many structural features which must be regarded as ancestral. The blood-vascular system is described in detail, and certain points concerning its comparative anatomy are discussed.

The heart is a simple tubular organ, situated in a pericardial chamber which retains free communication with the peritoneal cavity. There may be as many as fourteen pairs of functional branchial vessels, all the efferent branchial arteries on each side being connected by a longitudinal commissural vessel which continues forward as the common carotid of that side. The dorsal aorta extends forward into the head region. An inferior jugular vein is present, and there is a persistent subintestinal vein which does not join the portal system. These characters are among those which the author regards as primitive. There is a portal heart whose walls contain distinctly striated muscle fibers. The contractility of the portal heart is included among the primitive characters.

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[1] Jackson, C. M. An Investigation of the Vascular System of Bdellostoma dombeyi, *Journ. of the Cin. Soc. of Nat. Hist.*, vol. xx, No. 1, pp. 13–48. 3 pls.

The following features the author considers to have been secondarily acquired. The venous system is asymmetrical. The branchial vessels distribute "to gill slits instead of gill arches." The portal system receives blood from the anterior body region. The caudal vein connects with the posterior cardinals. The portal heart has well-developed valves.

H. W. R.

On Hair in the Equidæ. — F. H. A. Marshall[1] discusses the hair of Equidæ with special reference to peculiarities which, he believes, are of taxonomic importance. The chief characters which he finds to be of specific value are the shape and size, the extent of development of the medulla, the relative thickness of cortex and medulla, and the distribution and arrangement of pigment in the cortex. The cuticle exhibits only slight modifications in the several members of the group.

Much greater variability in the character of the hairs was found in *Equus caballus* than in the zebras. The hairs of zebra-horse hybrids show surprisingly little variation, even though the dams were of various breeds. The hybrid hairs resemble closely those of the zebra sire.

No evidence was found, so far as hair was concerned, in support of the telegony hypothesis.

H. W. R.

Notes. — Wesley R. Coe describes the nemerteans collected by the United States Fish Commission steamer *Fish Hawk*, at Porto Rico, in the summer of 1899 (*Bulletin United States Fish Commission*, 1900, Vol. II, pp. 223–229). Eight species are represented among the very few individuals collected. At least three of the species are new. The collections of Professor Verrill, at Bermuda, and Ehrhardt, at Barbados, exhibit the same marked scarcity of nemerteans.

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[1] *Proc. Royal Soc. Edinburgh*, vol. xxiii, pp. 375–390. 6 pls.